





The efficiency craze has hit the joke making business.

The up-to-date newspaper humorist leaves liquor alone. He is different in many other ways from the average conception of him. George Fitch tells the details.

In this interview the author of the famous Siwash tales, and of dozens of motorboat stories, in addition to his famous funny column, presents a few serious facts about this business of being funny at so much per week.

By I. R. HILDEBRAND.

Strange that in these days of playgrounds, public baths, free movies, and recreation centers for everyone from the coal heaver to the anaemic bookkeeper, and from the tired business man to the superannuated den-

tist, that one thriving industry should have been neglected by philan-thropists and social workers. Hence it came about that the press humorischad to look out for himself. humorist had to look out for himself. He did that by organizing, just like other human beings. But he organized, not for higher wages, not for shorter hours, not for better ventilation. He organized for the sole purpose that he might go off just one week in the year with others of his kind and enjoy one sad, lugubrious, tearful, restful and happy week.

Wherefore the American Press Humorists. And this statement of the worthy purpose of that earnest organization is direct from George Fitch, its president. Fitch, its president.
"Why is a humorist, anyway?"

For umpty-ump dollars a week, the cynic would reply.

But Fitch thought long and care-

But Fitch thought long and carefully.

"We are pretty much like other human beings," he drawled. "And we refuse to be classified and ticketed in a group. Most of us are hard working, serious chaps. Some just grind out a daily column for the seeming joy of it, some sweat blood over every flash of wit."

Search your own brain to see what Search your own brain to see what ubiquitous tribe that every news-paper reader knows, but whom but few have seen.

Ten to one you either conceived you actually

haired, slender-fingered, bibulous, awake-by-night sort of person, who lived by bright thoughts alone.

awake-by-night sort of person, who lived by bright thoughts alone.

Or you swerved to the other conception, inspired by the humorists themselves, and regarded him as a sort of disgruntled, soured, msyoginist, rendered inhuman by the frightful task of being funny at so much per week, and almost sure to beat his wife for recreation.

The last guess is nearer the mark than the first, only it is exaggerated. When a humorist wants recreation he turns to serious pursuits. Frank Daniels or Raymond Hitchcock offer him no inducements. When he goes to a theater he prefers a nice, tearful time, like our matinee girl who has no real troubles. And the same rule holds good in his everyday living.

"Maybe that is why I am a progressive member of the Illinois legislature, and came all the way to Washington to make a suffrage speech." Fitch explained. "And for the same reason. I suppose, Strickland Gilliand turned to politics, and Tom Daley edits a religious newspaper, and Jud Lewis has a Home for Foundlings under his editorial wing, and Eddie Guest, of Detroit, takes a serious interest in public affairs.

"The more I think of it the more I realize that most of our fellows

takes a serious interest in public affairs.

"The more I think of it the more I realize that most of our fellows (meaning the American humorists' bunch) are at heart, pretty serious chaps. Take F. P. Adams, and Edmund Vance Cook, and Bert Taylor, and Duncan Smith—all of them carry weight. And I suppose no one's opinion in Nebraska is more highly regarded than A. L. Bixby, who writes funny things for the Lincoln State Journal."

Fitch himself belies all conceptions of the conventional humorist. A young looking man, with a pugnacious chin and close cropped hair, keen eyed and crisp of speech, he might be taken for an automobile salesman or a dry goods clerk, certainly not for a "highbrow" humorist.

orist.

His conversation bristles with none of the gems of wit with which Mark Twain set a conversational precedent for humorists that it has been hard for successors to live

been hard for but to the theory that a humorist would not tell you a joke he could sell, or the theory that a newspaper man would not give another a scoop, he did remark, before a friend with an automobile came along to take him away. 'I have a big piece of news for you. Washington is in danger of losing its job of being the Capital. A man out in our State (Illinois), is running for a nomination to Congress on the

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ment should be moved from Wash-

ington to Peoria, Ilu. "And as I wandered about this morning I felt so sorry for you all. I wonder what might be left. I can't tell you just when the movcan't tell you just when the moving is to take place. My friend from my home district did not tell me."

But there is more human interest, if not more news, in the pranks these humorists de when together, than in the moving of a capital. And by way of exploding the final misconception of this business of being a funny man. Fitch told of the extreme sobriety of the crowd, even when on their weeks' vacation. even when on their weeks' vacation.

from being funny.

"I do not believe a half pint of liquor was consumed by the entire crowd during the week I was with them. Why not? Because efficiency. has bit the joke making business. I suppose And a man can't be as funny tipsy, as when he is soher, tradition to the contrary notwith-

standing."
Which is final and conclusive proof that this matter of being funny is carnest, serious business

Kill That Fly Now and Prevent a Million

vantage of these cool days to kill the insect. In blistering hot weather the germ-carrying pest is particubut on moderately active. cool days he becomes so inactive

that killing is easy. The death of one fly means a decrease in the annual crop of one million. If every individual in Washington would allot ten flies to his summer slaughter, the Capital of the nation would soon be a flyless

is the desire of the District Health Department and Bureau of Entomology of the Department of Agriculture that Washington be

Every fly killed brings this city nearer the much sought goal of sanitary excellence. But the officers of the Health Department and the Bureau of Entomology are powerless in their fight against the summer pest unless they be assisted by every Washingtonian,

The way to assist is to kill every fly you see. A death in time saves not nine, but nine million. Nine million flies are sufficient to

wipe out the 300,000 residents of Washington. Save yourself by killing the fly

Police Court Record

United States Branch, Judge Mullowny-John Patten, cruelty to animals, nolle prossed; Anthony Whitman, false pretenses, ntinued; William Gaines and Gabel Gaines. arceny, noile prossed; George Brown, cruelty

larceny, nolle prossed; George Brown, crueity to animals, collateral forfeited; Albert Pullman, assault, 160 or 50 days; Frank Smith, embezziement, 220 or 30 days; Isalah Smallwood, assault, 120 or 60 days; Burley Williams, cruelty to animals, 160 or 30 days; Henry Clayton, embezziement, continued; Lena Talboe, larceny, nolle prossed.

District Branch, Judge Pugh-Thomas O'Nell, John Johnson, John L. Rea, Augustus Winston, Harry Skilliman, Joseph Dixon, Harry West, William E. Drane, Lewis Foster, intoxication, 160 or 30 days; Joseph Baker, disorderly, personal bond; Isalah Smallwood, disorderly, personal bond; James Sykle, disorderly, personal bond; George Beless, unlicensed cattle dealer, continued; Leonard Hitchcock, intoxication, personal bond; Rachel Craig, disorderly, collateral forfeited; Frank Oukward, intoxication, collateral forfeited; Benjamin Simpson, disorderly, 510 or 20 days.

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and beautify the hair, but also stimulate it to grow long, heavy, soft, fluffy, and radiant with life.

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